Sturminster Newton Town Council

1st October 2020

Town Clerk's Report

1. Town Council working arrangements – Covid-19

The Town Council team has continued to work within the constraints imposed by the Covid -19 lockdown announced on 23rd March 2020. We have implemented the necessary working practices using government guidance to create a safe working environment in the context of Covid-19 across all Town Council services and locations. We are reviewing working arrangements in light of the recent guidance, however the reception will remain open to the public.

2. Work Programme

The Town Council team have continued to pursue the normal work programme including:

- Project activities cemetery mapping, assets and play equipment review.
- Preparation for 2021-22 budget
- Website updates for the new Town Council website. Councillors will be aware that the new website was uploaded prematurely with errors. The old website has been reinstated while we undertake remedial work with the website provider. The new website will be operational by Friday 9th of October.
- General maintenance of open spaces including pitch marking

3. Service Issues

- Like many other Councils we are continuing to experience unusual levels of antisocial behaviour and littering. There has been a spate of vandalism at the Rixon recreation ground.
- The fire service broke into the toilets on 21st September in response to a 999 call. An insurance claim has been made to cover repair costs

4. DAPTC/NALC

- Councillors are reminded that DAPTC are offering a number of new training courses including planning and local government finance. For more information please contact the Clerk.
- If you would like to find out more about the work of DAPTC they are running twice monthly hour sessions to help new Clerks, elected members and prospective councillors understand how they support members in Dorset. Neil, Debbie and Lisa will be on hand to talk you through the resources available and an overview of the Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils (DAPTC)

5. Correspondence

Three requests for funding have been received and are included in the agenda.